



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF CANNABIS POLICY
162 STATE HOUSE STATION
19 UNION STREET
FIRST FLOOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0162

ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL SERVICES

KIRSTEN LC FIGUEROA
COMMISSIONER

OFFICE OF CANNABIS POLICY

JOHN HUDAK
DIRECTOR

April 19, 2023

Re: LD 1530 – *An Act to Support Patients by Permitting On-site Consumption of Medical Cannabis and Medical Cannabis Products*

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs:

I am John Hudak, Director of the Office of Cannabis Policy (OCP) and I am before you today to provide testimony on behalf of our office in opposition to LD 1530. In light of the introduction of Senator Chipman's bill, LD 1446, to establish a task force to study on-premises consumption, we would recommend that the issue of on-premises consumption by medical cannabis patients be added to the issues discussed by that task force.

As we indicated at the hearing for LD 839, the adult use program version of this bill, we have substantial concerns regarding the introduction of on-premises consumption to Maine's regulated cannabis markets. We continue to have serious concerns about the public health and safety impacts of permitting on-premises consumption of cannabis, regardless of whether it is medical or adult use, related to indoor air quality in light of the Workplace Smoking Act of 1985; cannabis server training and business liability related to the over-service of individuals consuming cannabis on-site; and the consequences of driving under the influence of cannabis.

Upon reflection, and the introduction of LD 1446, we would recommend that the issues outlined above be added to the scope of review for the on-premises consumption task force. While the introduction of on-premises consumption to the adult use and medical cannabis program may be motivated by different policy objectives, they engage inherently similar if not identical activities. As such, they involve identical and critical public health and safety concerns and should be studied by that task force before new state policy is designed enacted.

As always, we thank you for your time and we'll do our best to answer any questions you may have.